

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 202494 TOSEC 100158

63

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

H-02 OES-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 CG-00

DOT-00 DLOS-04 OFA-01 EB-07 COME-00 INT-05 TRSE-00

PRS-01 /080 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:MYOHN/TJCHEAVNER:AF

APPROVED BY ARA - HEWSON A. RYAN (ACTING)

OES/OLA:ABURT

L/LOS:SBURTON

ARA:WHLUERS

S/S :FORTIZ

----- 071354

P 260110Z AUG 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202494 TOSEC 100158

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, BF

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: SPINY LOBSTER TALKS WITH THE  
BAHAMIANS

TO THE SECRETARY FROM RYAN (ACTING)

NASSAU FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR CLINGAN, LOS DELEGATION

1. IN A POSSIBLE LAST MINUTE CHANGE OF HEART, THE BAHAMIAN  
GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF OUR SPINY LOB-  
STER TALKS UNTIL WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27. EARLIER THE GCOB  
HAD ASKED THAT THE TALKS BE SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY ON  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 202494 TOSEC 100158

AUGUST 25, AND WE WERE PREPARED TO ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT  
ANNOUNCING A BREAK-OFF.

2. UP TO NOW, THE GCOB HAS: 1) OFFERED NO COUNTER-

PROPOSALS TO A NUMBER OF FAIR AND REASONABLE PROPOSALS WE PRESENTED ON CONTROL OF AND ACCESS TO, THE FISHERY, AND 2) MAINTAINED THAT THERE IS NO BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT. WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT PROMPTED THE REQUEST FOR THE TWO-DAY RECESS, BUT IT MAY BE THAT THE GCOB IS NOW CONSIDERING SOME COUNTER-PROPOSALS.

3. THE DENIAL OF ACCESS TO THE LOBSTER FISHERY IS CAUSING

SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP TO THE US-BASED FISHERMEN WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY ENGAGED IN FISHING ON THE BAHAMA BANKS.

4. IF THE WEDNESDAY TALKS ARE FRUITLESS OUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN WILL BE THE PROSPECT OF VIOLENT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE BAHAMIAN AUTHORITIES AND NON-BAHAMIAN FISHERMEN. THE LATTER HAVE REFRAINED SINCE AUGUST 1 FROM FISHING ON THE BANKS IN ORDER TO GIVE THE NEGOTIATIONS A CHANCE OF SUCCESS. IF TALKS BREAK OFF IT WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO RESTRAIN THEM FURTHER. SOME OF THE FISHERMEN, PARTICULARLY THE SUBSTANTIAL CUBAN REFUGEE ELEMENT, ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE ACCESS TO MACHINE GUNS AND OTHER RELATIVELY HEAVY WEAPONRY WHICH IS CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THE SMALL BAHAMIAN POLICE AND COAST GUARD CONTINGENT.

5. WE HAVE BRIEFED INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE STAFFS ON THE STATUS OF THE TALKS AND HAVE ASKED THAT THEY BE PREPARED TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICES IN COUNSELING AGAINST VIOLENCE.

6. THE US COAST GUARD WOULD TAKE ALL MEASURES POSSIBLE TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE. HOWEVER, THE COAST GUARD HAS NO LEGAL BASIS FOR ACTION TO EXTRICATE A US BOAT WHICH IS ARRESTED FOR VIOLATING BAHAMIAN LAW. HEW IS REVIEWING PROSPECTS FOR ASSISTING UNEMPLOYED CUBAN FISHERMEN THROUGH FEDERAL WELFARE PROGRAMS ALREADY IN EFFECT FOR CUBAN REFUGEES. HOWEVER, MANY OF THE FISHERMEN ARE RECONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 202494 TOSEC 100158

GARDED AS RUGGED INDIVIDUALISTS WHO WOULD PREFER TO RISK ARREST BY THE GCOB RATHER THAN GIVE UP THEIR TRADITIONAL OCCUPATION FOR AN UNCERTAIN WELFARE STATUS.

7. PROSPECTS. UP TO NOW IT APPEARS THAT THE GCOB IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO A COURSE OF EXCLUDING FOREIGN (ESPECIALLY, CUBAN) FISHERMEN, WHATEVER THE RISK TO ITS OWN CITIZENS. WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST TO IMPRESS ON THE GCOB THAT THIS RISK IS SUBSTANTIAL, AT THE SAME TIME ATTEMPTING TO AVOID GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF USING THE ISSUE AS A THREAT. FOR THE PRESENT, FURTHER NEGOTIATING INITIATIVES ARE UP TO THE BAHAMIANS. INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHELLFISH, TOSEC, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE202494  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** ARA/CAR:MYOHN/TJCHEAVNER:AF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750294-0268  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197508102/baaaatbr.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <07 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** EFIS, BF, US  
**To:** SECRETARY INFO NASSAU  
GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006